

# Jennifer in North Macedonia

December 31, 2024



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***“The ticking clock of the New Year reminds us: time is not to be spent, but invested wisely in purpose and meaning.” — Aloo Denish Obiero***

**No one knows what a year may bring.** As we all prepare to head into a new year, I'd like to take a moment to share some of the key happenings in my life and ministry this past year. The year started off with a bang when eleven teenagers attended our winter teen event in Monospitovo. Pastor Milen taught on how to be a good friend and the kind of friend we have in Jesus.

Shortly afterwards, I found myself on a plane heading to Bogotá, Columbia, but only after enduring one of the most difficult days of my life – saying goodbye to my feline friend and housemate of thirteen years, Lizzy. I am thankful for the years I had with Lizzy, her companionship and all she taught me.



In February, Global Ministries hosted a combined missionary gathering for all missionaries and their family members serving in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East along with those serving in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was a blast reconnecting with the missionaries and staff I already knew as well as getting to know so many new missionaries, staff, local church members, and even some members of the board of directors!



Missionary gathering 2024



I got to share some Macedonian culture during the culture night and came away from the event refreshed and thankful to serve in an organization that takes such good care of its members.

In April, I attended the Annual Conference meeting for Albania, Serbia and North Macedonia.



One of the highlights was when Bishop Stefan Zürcher and Superintendent Wilfried Nausner presented Mitko Konev with a painting to commemorate his retirement from director of the Miss Stone Center and to celebrate his decades of service in humanitarian aid. We also celebrated two recently ordained members of the Albanian district who became members in full connection to the Annual Conference, Gjergj Lushka and Florian Çela.

In June, we had our children's camp, and I hosted an amazing VIM team from Roanoke, VA.



*Sailing with Jonah at children's camp*



*VIM team with Superintendent and his family*

Hosting a team was a major growth experience for me. I am so grateful for their patience, flexibility and the positive impact the team made on our camp!

In July, the Commission for Work with Children and Youth (KRDM) hosted a four-day, three-night teen camp at the campground in Gevgelija. Fifteen teenagers from seven different churches joined us for games, crafts, worship, Biblical teaching, swimming, fellowship and more!



*Teen camp in Gevgelija*

The theme of the camp was „Темелот“ (“The Foundation”). Pastor Dejan Vasilev taught on the importance of building our lives on the solid rock of Jesus. We do this through having faith, reading and obeying God's Word, belonging to a Christian community and receiving salvation. Dejan warned us that there is a lot of information available to us through the internet nowadays and numerous gurus, coaches and guides that can tempt us to build our lives on faulty and unreliable foundations.



*Above: Team Ваљаџи (the Steam rollers) testing the strength and stability of the foundation they made.*



We put the teens in groups named after construction vehicles and had the groups compete to create the strongest foundation out of assorted materials. I encourage you to click [here](#) to watch the video from the camp and see their creations!



Finally, to remind us that Jesus is the rock of our salvation, we painted rock message holders and added our camp verse: “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

After the camp, I finally got to make good on a promise to visit a Macedonian couple who moved to Mongolia four years ago. I had a wonderful time catching up with Viki and Petar, exploring Mongolia, and even riding a camel for the first time in my life!



I was very encouraged by what I saw and heard God is doing in Mongolia. My tour guide, a believer, shared many things with me about the increasing popularity of protestant Christianity since the 1990's as well as the legacy of Christianity still in the culture from the time of the Nestorians. For example, he shared that many employers seek to hire Christians due to their work ethic and that

Mongolians, even non-believers, speak about marriage as the joining of two individuals to become “one flesh” – a Christian concept that has been a part of the Mongolian culture for centuries.



When I learned about the growth of the Methodist church in Mongolia, I was even more encouraged! Fellow missionary, Dexter F. Ceballos, took Viki and me to the very first Methodist church in Mongolia. I was thrilled to see it is shaped like a traditional Mongolian nomadic home or “ger” (see header photo). We also got to tour the Methodist medical facility, Grace Hospice, and the community center. Grace Hospice can provide care for up to ten patients at a time and the community center has a gymnasium, a coffee bar, office space, a workshop and several classrooms which are used for after-school tutoring during the school year.

Dexter and his wife Laraine are from the Philippines and have been serving in Mongolia since 2022. I can only imagine how hard the difference in climate has been for them. Even though my time with them was brief, it was obvious they care deeply about the Mongolian people and Dexter embodies compassionate listening and respect as he strives to empower the Mongolian church leaders. Click [here](#) to learn more about Dexter and his ministry.



*Above: spending time in the ger of a nomadic family.*

Confirmation ceremony



On September 15, the church in Skopje celebrated the confirmation of four new members. Each candidate had to answer a question from the catechism and was given a Bible by Pastor Laze.

And on October 12, one of my closest friends and valued ministry partner, Simona Tancheva, tied the knot and became Simona Trajkoska. It has been a joy to watch the love between her and Mihailo grow this past year and I am excited to see what God will do with this pair of committed believers!



Simona and Mihailo's wedding

Major steps were taken this year to complete some of the projects the KRDM has initiated, including creating a storage space for KRDM materials in Skopje. Volunteers from the church helped clean out, whitewash, and install flooring in one of the rooms in the basement. Thanks to donations, we were able to purchase shelving, and we now have a place to store the items for our camps and other activities. Such a blessing!



Basement storage room

To close out the year, I decided to conduct a special Christmas class for the children in Skopje. I used the curriculum, „Светлината на Животот“ ("The Light of Life"), which had been graciously translated by Child Evangelism Fellowship and was being offered free of charge. I was nervous because I knew I needed to be able to do everything from the lesson to classroom management in Macedonian; however, the class went great. I am so thankful for the curriculum provided by CEF and that I decided to spend the evening with the three angels you see in the picture below. We had a wonderful time decorating the Christmas tree, playing light-themed games, singing Christmas songs, hearing the Christmas story, making our craft, shining lights in the darkness, and eating star-shaped sandwiches!



[Click here](#)

I do not know what the coming year will bring us, but I do know God was in 2024 and He is always working. May you be blessed by His presence and by opportunities to make a lasting difference in 2025.

In Him,

*Jennifer Moore*



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